

of Capra is about to inaugurate a new revolution, or whether the young Napoleon (as the Federals call their General-in-Chief) will be able to subjugate the South—but whether they, the Irish people, are to be secured the occupation of the soil of their fathers. This is the question of vital importance to them, for its solution depends the destiny of their country. Two bad harvests, coming consecutively, have shown on what a frail tenure rests that Irish Prosperity which has been sounded so much in our ears of late. Not since the first dread years of the Famine Era has there been such a trying season experienced as that through which our farmers and traders are now endeavouring to struggle. Provisions dear, fuel at a premium, the poor-houses full, and business in a state of stagnation. No wonder the farmer, the shopkeeper and the artisan look despondent and talk plaintively of the "hard times"—they are barely living from hand to mouth, keeping their heads over the water by stratagem, and the aid of such friendly accommodation as those who are still on safe ground themselves are able to afford them. But for the war raging in America, the emigration returns for the year would supply a sad commentary on the indecent bluster of those who, heated with wine and gorged with good living, hector it in the House of Commons and elsewhere, about the happy and well-fed condition of the Irish. Fathers of families do not scrape together whatever little means they can and run away from prosperous countries. The moment this American conflict is proclaimed at an end our shores will witness a new exodus—an exodus which will not tend to lighten the burden on those who remain, because it will deprive us not of the destitute and weak, but of the strong, and healthy, the active and those who have more or less of little capital, which they hope to turn to better advantage in another clime. To state off, in some sort, this melancholy state of things individual charity is being exerted here and there through the country, and there is a useful Committee of Relief sitting in permanence in Dublin, but such efforts however, praiseworthy, are utterly inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the distress. The depression which overshadows one portion of the community is not without its influence on the community at large, and Ireland does not possess within itself the power of alleviating her own wants. The begging-box has accordingly to be sent round, and this proud and ancient land, remarkable for fertility and material wealth, famous for civilization when the greater portion of Europe was yet sunk in the depths of ignorance and barbarism, this, the most valuable appanage of the British Crown, stands before the world—a beggar! There is no denying it. Ireland is a beggar, and asks from other countries the wherewithal to keep her children from starving, while nature has blessed her with a more bounteous hand than she has who drop their arms into her lap. —Tipperary Advocate.

AGGREGATE MEETING.—We have learned with heartfelt pleasure that our great Archbishop and his reverend Clergy have resolved on the necessity of holding an aggregate meeting in Tuam on Easter Monday, the 21st inst., to take into consideration the alarming and wide-spread destitution in this province, and to adopt such resolutions as will bring under the notice of Parliament the frightful condition of the people. This is a step we have been long wishing to see taken. Fortunately for the poor—fortunately for Ireland that we have still left, through the kindness of Providence, at least one Chief Shepherd one Prelate of giant mind—clear and unimpaired intellect—fearless, bold, uncompromising—as vigorous now as in 1825, when his honored head first graced the mitre. Had not his Grace attended and blessed by his presence the meeting held in our Town-hall last October, the shivering victims of landlord rapacity would have witnessed one of the most disastrous winters in the annals of time. At an average, there have been relieved weekly, about 2,400 individuals, allowing, at least, four individuals to each of more than 600 families which have been receiving assistance. But now comes the terrible crisis. Private and voluntary resources are exhausted. The tenant farmers are, most of them, without seed or manure, to till the ground, and of those who have—many are afraid to expend their capital, dreading a recurrence of the last harvest, one consequence of which—and a terrific consequence is—that persons who have any money are preparing to quit the land they loved so dearly. It was, therefore, high time that some mighty leader whose potential voice would rouse the nation to action, had stood forth and proclaimed to the nations of the earth the obduracy of heart which has marked the conduct of the Irish executive and the British Parliament in leading a deaf ear to the universal wail of distress that has been raised from end to end of this seagirt isle. From under the very hands of their own officials we have positive proofs of unparalleled misery. Even Her Majesty has not forwarded one penny to allay the pangs of hunger and cold; and yet, it is expected it is commanded that we, spaniel-like, will kiss the hand that spurns us, and worship the golden (?) link that binds us to the Crown of England. [We think it due to Her Majesty to observe that she and the late Duchess of Kent were always foremost in contributing to the relief of Irish suffering and the promotion of Irish manufactures and amusements; and that in the present instance the apparent disregard of Irish distress on the part of Her Majesty is to be attributed to her Whig Ministers, who choose to ignore the existence of destitution for purposes which we confess our utter inability to fathom. As her constitutional advisers proclaim to the world in the face of deplorable facts that establish the contrary, that there is no extraordinary distress in Ireland, it would evidently be an attack upon her Ministers if the Queen were to contribute towards the relief of that distress. Ministers are the real culprits in this matter. They have before them the official report of their own subordinate, Dr. Geary, which attests that there is wide-spread destitution in the west of Ireland between Galway and Westport; and yet they doggedly and wickedly persist in backing up Sir Robert Peel's original mis-statement, and thus prevent the flow of English benevolence into that part of the Empire, at a time when it is imperatively demanded by the deplorable condition of the people. Of this additional proof of the sympathy of the present Administration for Catholic Ireland, we hope the Irish Catholics will show a proper appreciation at the next general Election.—Connacht Patriot.

The Munster News of April 12, says:—"The country has seldom worn a fiercer appearance in Spring, than at present. The incessant moisture has stimulated an extraordinary growth of more than usual greenness. The quantity and color are in fact scarcely natural. If dry warm weather followed, all would be well. The wheat crop looks well; but the quantity of land under potatoes is less than last year, and the condition of the soil renders it impossible to sow out in many places. Agricultural operations are in general backward; and farmers are by no means sanguine that this year will repair the losses of the last."

A correspondent, writing of the Spring operations in Mayo, gives the following gloomy picture of the prospects of the agricultural classes of that county:—"As for an Autumn and Winter unprecedented for fierceness and inclemency, the poor farmers looked anxiously forward to the present Spring, hoping that the weather would take up, and that they might be able to effect their little sowings. And, indeed, during the Month of February their hopes were in a great measure realized, for that month was one of unclouded sunshine! But March set in with rain, wind, and even snow, so that all agricultural preparations had to be set aside, and as this sort of weather still continues, and no likelihood of its stopping, all Spring work is at a stand still. It was hoped that April, though wearing a changeable face, might be mild and calm; but as far as that month has gone it appears to be just as inclined towards rain as any of its predecessors, and should it continue so the consequences will be awful, for the land at present is so soft and wet, that it will be impossible to work it for

any purpose; and it would require a fortnight or more of dry weather to render it fit for agricultural purposes. And, what is worse to contemplate, the turf which is so scarce at present will in a few weeks more be entirely exhausted, and no probability of a succeeding supply. May He, who is the author and giver of all good, stretch forth His hand, and stay the angry floods on high, as it is His gracious and merciful power that can alone save us from the fearful and impending calamity of starvation and famine."

The uncertainty of the weather for the past three weeks has very much retarded labour. Grass is the only crop looking decidedly well. During the greater part of the last week, however, the weather has been favourable for agricultural operations, which are being pushed forward with vigour in every direction. A large breadth of land has been sown with grain.

The climate of the south of Ireland, as well as the soil, is favourable to the cultivation of flax, and by those who understand its management the crop can be made most profitable, an acre producing from £10 to £28. It is very desirable that it should be cultivated now to supply the want of cotton, the price of which has been more than doubled by the American war. The Munster Flax Society has been established for the purpose of aiding the farmers in the cultivation. At its meeting in Cork on Thursday, a letter was read from General Sir Thomas Larcom, Under-Secretary, stating that Mr. Brogan, an inspector of agricultural schools, had been sent to examine the modes of proceeding in the flax-growing districts, and to report the result of his observations. He found that the operations of the Munster Flax Improvement Society were confined to seven localities in three counties, and that nothing had been effected in the counties of Limerick, Kerry, and Waterford. Three-fourths of the quantity grown are produced in the county of Cork. Although flax is a profitable crop, if mismanaged or neglected it may be the reverse; hence it requires the fostering care of a society, in order to instruct the farmers in its management, and show them how to prepare it for the market. There are at present 11 scutching-mills in connexion with the society. The growers embrace every class in the community, from the gentleman farmer, with 20 or 30 acres of this crop, to the small cottier tenants, with their fractions of an acre. The Inspector recommends that the Government aid which the society has received should be continued; and the committee say that if they got £245 by the 1st of May, they would be able to carry on their operations. They were well pleased with the Inspector's report; Colonel Beamish stating that it was the most important document ever presented to them. Flax is extensively cultivated in the north of Ireland, but the home growth is not nearly sufficient for the home consumption. Large quantities are imported, for which money is sent out of the country that might be spent in employing our own people. It is therefore a matter of national importance that the cultivation should be encouraged by the State, till the skill of the people will enable them to make the business support itself.

The Cork Reporter states that the Chatsworth was towed out of the harbour, and proceeded on her voyage for Queensland, Western Australia. She took out 451 passengers, 130 of whom, though having embarked at Liverpool, were for the most part Irish; the remainder took shipping at Queensland, and consisted principally of agriculturists and agricultural servants, male and female, of which latter class there were a good many, all carefully selected and of unexceptional moral character. The many advantages which this extensive and now rapidly rising colony afford, are attracting to it a class of emigrants who have resolved to avail themselves of the liberal inducements in the way of free grants of land which the Government hold out to settlers there. Forty acres of land to each member of a family, is the allotted quantity, and is given by the Colonial Government in fee simple at a mere nominal sum, the payment of which may be deferred for two or three years, at the convenience or option of the settler. The emigrants who go out by the Chatsworth will be received on their arrival at the city of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, by a committee specially formed for the encouragement to emigration, at the head of which is an Irish Roman Catholic prelate, the Right Rev. Dr. Quinn, Bishop of Brisbane, whose brother, the Rev. Dr. Quinn, of Harcourt-street, Dublin, has taken much pains in, if we may so term it, organizing the arrangements for these emigrants, and who accompanied them on board and remained up to the moment of sailing, while the Rev. Mr. Morley, from the same religious house in Dublin, goes out as the spiritual director and chaplain. The passengers are chiefly from the midland counties of Ireland, a large portion from King's County.

There were but four criminal cases for trial at the Killarney Quarter Sessions, opened before C. Coppinger, Esq., on the 1st of April, the only one of a serious nature being a case of burglary, in which a man named McCarthy was indicted for feloniously entering the dwelling-house of Michael Griffin, but was acquitted of the charge.

The Quarter Sessions of Mullingar commenced with the criminal business on the 3rd of April, at 12 o'clock, and the Crown portion was terminated in about two hours. One solitary conviction took place, for rescue of property under restraint.

An extraordinary case of child desertion has been brought to light in Belfast. On Friday evening a child, two and a half years old, was found dead in a house in Rea's-court, of Millfield, in that town. An inquest was held on Saturday, when the following facts were stated by several witnesses:—A man, named McNally, and several of his children (eight in number) were street musicians. They were in the habit of playing on board the Bangor boats. Some weeks ago the parents came to Dublin, bringing the two eldest boys with them, and leaving the younger ones in charge of their sister, a little girl 11 years old. The father sent her postage-stamps almost daily, from 1s. to 1s. 6d. Twice he sent 2s. 6d. The child brought what she could with her for the children's food. The deceased child was a cripple, all-ways ailing, and requiring the greatest care, but it does not appear that the unnatural mother thought much about it. The little sister did as much as a child of her age could be expected to do, thus left without oversight and needing a mother's care herself. The coroner's jury brought in a verdict that the child "died from natural causes." Both they and the coroner expressed themselves in strong terms as to the disgraceful and cruel conduct of the parents, and censured the neighbors for not sending for the police, and getting the children removed to the work-house. One of the children is younger than the deceased.

THE LONGFORD ELECTION.—We learn that Colonel White and the government are sparing no effort to collect all the evidence they can in favor of the petition against the return of Major O'Rielly for Longford. Several of the officers who were in command of the troops at the election have received notifications that they will be called on as witnesses in favor of the petition. We believe, however, that the real question, as to the validity or otherwise of the election, will hinge on the point as to the legality of the day appointed for the polling by the High Sheriff. Regarding this a great difference of opinion appears to exist. The rumor which has been circulated that the government intend bringing in Colonel White for an English borough is, we have good reason to believe, without any foundation. The great Conservative reaction which prevails in this country is equally paramount in England, and the government would experience just as much difficulty in obtaining a seat in Parliament for their Lord of the Treasury from an English as they already have from an Irish constituency.—Irish Times.

A Defence Committee has been formed in Longford to collect funds to defend the seat of Major O'Rielly for that County.

BRASS TABLET TO EDMUND BURKE.—In the parish church of Beaconsfield, where repose the mortal remains of the Right Hon. Edmund Burke, a monument to him on one side of the church announces the fact but until now there has been no actual indication of the spot beneath which he lies buried. This was felt by the frequent visitors to the place to be a serious omission. To supply the deficiency some members of the wide-spread family of De Burgh, Bourke, or Burke, have clubbed together, and have caused a handsome monumental brass, inlaid with slate, to be laid down exactly over the vault of the illustrious orator and statesman. The brass is a very beautiful piece of work; the design is exquisite, and is by that accomplished amateur adept in heraldic and mediæval drawing, Mrs. John Hughes, Gwerclas. The engraving on the brass was executed by Mr. E. Matthews, of 337, Oxford-street, and it was neatly fixed in stone by Mr. Harley, stonemason, of Windsor. The brass bears the following inscription:—"Within the vault beneath, in a wooden coffin, lie the remains of the Right Hon. Edmund Burke. This brass has been placed in the year of our Lord and Saviour, 1862 under the auspices of the Rev. John Gould, R.D., rector of Beaconsfield, by Edmund Haviland Burke, Esq., great-grand-nephew and representative of Edmund Burke; and by Sir Ulysses de Burgh, G.C.B., Lord Downes, Sir B. Burke, Ulster King of Arms, Peter Burke, Sergeant-at-law; Jos. Burke, Esq., of Elm-hall, in the co. of Tipperary; Richard Burke, Esq., of Thornfields, in the county of Limerick; and the Rev. Michael Burke, of Ballyduga, in the county of Galway; their object being to mark the grave of the greatest of their name." The slate on which the brass is laid bears this further inscription:—"This stone, for the brass above it, presented by Mrs. Fitzgerald, of Shalton, Bucks, and Walter Ronan, Esq., of the South Mall, Cork." The whole memorial adds, indeed, to the attraction of the beautiful hamlet of Beaconsfield, famous as the home and grave, not only of Edmund Burke, but also of Edmund Waller, the poet, whose graceful tomb in the churchyard, which Dr. Johnson admired, and which is now decaying should not be allowed to perish if there be a descendant of the poet with taste and means sufficient to restore it.

THE INCHQUIN PEERAGE CLAIM.—This case was finally heard before the Committee for Privileges in the House of Lords, on Friday the 11th ult., and decided in favor of the claimant, Sir Lucius O'Brien, Lord Inchiquin. Mr. Sergeant Burke and Mr. Hoigson were the counsel engaged. By this decision the ancient barony of Inchiquin is preserved, a barony given in 1543 by Henry VIII. to the princely Murrain O'Brien, in exchange for the sovereignty domain which he held in Ireland. Sir Lucius O'Brien, the successful claimant, the direct descendant and representative of Murrain, stands, as Lord Inchiquin, sixth on the roll of Irish barons. In the course of the hearing of the case an important principle in the law of evidence in matters of pedigree was, after some discussion, established for the first time, viz., that the funeral entries of the heralds' office in Ireland, since they are made there in the course of public duty, are receivable as proofs of family descent.—Post.

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have authorized an arrangement by which articles of antiquity found in Ireland may be purchased from their possessors at the full value, and placed for the public benefit in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy. The Lord Lieutenant has ordered the constabulary to receive all such objects offered them, and to pay the finders the value placed on them by the Committee of Antiquities of the Royal Irish Academy. This arrangement protects the finders of "treasure trove" from all legal claims, and secures them a much higher price than they could otherwise get for articles. An immense quantity of these articles has been sold to jewellers and goldsmiths for melting purposes, the price varying from 6s to 70s per ounce. The antiquarian value is 30s an ounce, and often more, according to the nature of the ornamentation. Lord Talbot de Malahide exerted himself to procure the Treasury minute above referred to, which will be the means of preserving any golden ornaments that may yet be found in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy. The Academy has already a magnificent collection, containing 300 specimens of antique manufactured gold. Dr. Wilde, Vice-President, has just published a descriptive catalogue, which is full of interest, not only to the antiquary, but to the historian and the general reader. He thinks that, in all probability, gold—in Irish, "or"—was the metal with which the primitive inhabitants of Ireland were first acquainted; and he asserts that "a greater number and variety of antique articles of gold have been found in this than in any other country in the north-west of Europe, from the Alps to the utmost inhabited limits of Norway or Sweden." He also states that the majority of the gold articles illustrative of the antiquities of the British Isles now preserved in the British Museum are Irish. The specimens in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy consist of articles connected with personal decoration, such as diadems, tiaras, lunulae, hairplates, ear-rings, gorgets, torques, beads, ball necklaces, circular pendants, fibulae, brooches, armlets, bracelets, finger rings, and a great number of minor trinkets. They have been found scattered broadcast over the country, and it is a curious fact they lie deeper beneath the surface than any other remains. They are seldom met in ordinary draining operations, but they have been found at the bottom of deep bogs, which seems to have grown over them many feet since they were dropped or buried. They seem to have been dropped or hidden in haste, while the plundering invader pressed hotly in pursuit of the terrified fugitive. The specimens of most value seem to have belonged to the pre-historic period, and to have been lost long before the use of writing was known in this country. The gold is never thoroughly pure. It is generally from 18 to 21 carats fine. The earliest records, however, make frequent mention of golden ornaments, ready gold having been paid for ransom, &c., by bulk and weight, and as many as 30 ounces were given on particular occasions. Gold does not appear to have been used by the ancient Irish as crowns, and Irish history contains no account of a coronation. The earliest insignia of rank or sovereignty would appear to have been bands or fillets, as shown on some of the most ancient coins and gems. At the meeting of the Council held the 7th of April, 1862, it was resolved to recommend to the Academy:—"That the Cross of Cong, the case of the Gospels of St. Molach, the Golden Head-dress (No. 17), the Large Silver Fibula (Nos 38 and 40), the Golden Fibula with cup-shaped ends (Nos 121 and 122), the Golden Torque (No 103), and such other articles as it may be thought desirable to lend, be forwarded for exhibition in the museum, South Kensington, London, belonging to the Science and Art Department of the Committee of Council on Education, during the forthcoming International Exhibition of 1863."—There was a general meeting of the members last night, when this matter was under consideration. At a meeting of the Royal Dublin Society last night a paper was read on the quality of the milk sold in Dublin. There were 20 samples purchased in the poorer districts of the city and suburbs and analyzed. The results were satisfactory. Water was the only adulteration found by the analysis.—"There was no chalk—in calves' or sheep's brains.—"The quality was, generally speaking, extremely fair." In three districts the samples examined were found to be absolutely pure, and two of these districts were amongst the poorest in the city.—Times Dublin Cor.

The Tipperary Artillery are to be embodied for 21 days training and exercise in Clonmel, on the 7th of May.

Orders have been issued for calling out the City Limerick Militia Artillery for 21 days training on the 21st of May.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.—Died at Anghrim, on the 5th inst., Sergeant Bernard Reddy, of the old Galway Militia. He was born in the latter end of the reign of George II., lived during the sixty years' reign of George III., the ten years' reign of William IV., and the twenty-four years' reign of Queen Victoria, and was, consequently, in his 104th year. He was always a sober, steady man, which may account for his surviving to so great an age.—Western Star.

The Marquis of Westmeath lately obtained, in the English court, a divorce from his wife, on the ground of adultery; and it is now said he is going to marry her waiting-maid whose espionage and evidence were instrumental in undermining her former mistress. It was thought at the time that she was unusually keen in the matter; but what was attributed merely to vengeance for bonnets withheld or dresses overdue, now turns out to have been a bold venture on her own account, for a coronet.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The no-Popery furnace was lighted in the first Holy Week. Barbara, indeed, was pardoned. But over the crucifixion of our Divine Redeemer, Herod and Pontius Pilate cemented a friendship, and hoped to have extinguished the temporal and all other power of the Master of all Popes. The wretches of that week cried, "We have no king but Cæsar." This Holy Week has the same cry repeated against the Vicar of Christ, with the same final view—the extinction of Christianity. The cry is substantially the same. But Christians, perfectly certain of the event, though to be reached, very likely, through long troubles, are not dismayed by this blazing furnace lighted from hell. Herod and Pontius Pilate, who by this time have reconsidered their judgment, undoubtedly had a temporary success. There was the Cross.—But eighteen hundred years of Christianity have been peopling Paradise; and when the end of all things arrives, the blazing furnace of no-Popery may be found to have acted as Nabuchodonosor's furnace of burning fire is related to have acted. That furnace spared the children of God whom the infidel King threw into it. But, "it broke forth and burned such of the Chaldeans as it found near the furnace." In the case of Easter peace and forgiveness we hope that no soul may encounter that end.—Weekly Register.

Paradoxical as it may seem to Catholics, it is a sincere opinion among religious Protestants that a Clergyman's wife has a function in her husband's parish so important that if he is single he can at best perform only half of his duty. Dr. Hook has even gone so far as to recommend, as part of a general movement for introducing the practice of confession, that the women should make their confession to the wife, the man to the husband, with a power for her to refer difficult cases to him, or as it was amusingly put by a Protestant antagonist, she was to send him the "reserved cases." This no doubt was an extravagance, but in a more moderate form the opinion has been universal; and we say no more than we know when we add that good and religiously-minded Protestant girls have always been desirous to marry clergymen as the only way in which (according to their views) a woman can devote herself to the service of religion. In fact, marriage with a clergyman has been their way of "going into religion." It need hardly be said that they have been disappointed. The cares of life have asserted their power over them as much as over others. Children have been born and had to be brought up and nursed, household cares, often with a limited income, have pressed hard, the world has exercised its power of distraction, and often a girl who, before her marriage, had really worked hard in schools and among the poor, and who has sincerely believed that, by marrying the curate she would do much more, has found it impossible to continue what she did before.—Id.

Mr. Monckton Milnes demanded and Lord Palmerston very intelligently seconded the demand that Catholics to all future times must needs be the humble retainers of every administration which is pleased to call itself liberal, be its measures what they may, because half a century ago the Whigs refused to take a pledge against proposing Catholic Emancipation as a condition of office. The demand hardly admits of being put into words. But it is enough to answer that Whig administrations have since been kept in office for years together Catholic support.—Id.

The third prosecution, as in contemplation against the authors of "Essays and Reviews," was to have been directed against the Rev. Mark Pattison, Rector of Lincoln College, who, it appears, holds the living of Twyford, near Buckingham. Mr. Pattison's essay, on cloister inspection, did not seem open to a charge of heresy which could be maintained: in the Court of Arches, and the suit has been abandoned. The Bishop of Oxford, in whose diocese is Twyford, was, it is said, strongly opposed to the prosecution of Mr. Pattison.—Western Flying Post.

SCOTCH KIDNAPPING OF CATHOLIC PAUPERS.—The great pressure upon our space last week compelled us to limit to a few words our notice of the petition presented by the Earl of Wicklow from "James Toland and Elizabeth Murphy, residing in Glasgow, against the 'Proselytising of Charles Cattan, the child of a Roman Catholic soldier, by the Barony Parish of Glasgow.'" It is but a few weeks since a similar petition was presented by the nobleman in behalf of a Catholic child at Portobello, whom the parish authorities there sent away some ten miles and a "hittock," as Jenny Deans would have expressed it, i.e. three miles more, from any Catholic Chapel. One would really think that the parish authorities in Scotland, in the east and in the west, were seeing who could beat the other in the new Scotch trade of child-lifting. Formerly, before the Union, our friends beyond the Tweed were famous for lifting cattle, in other words, kidnapping one another's cattle. Sir Walter Scott gives an amusing anecdote of this popular Scotch trade in his beautiful tale of "Waverley." It having become inconvenient to pursue that species of traffic, the spirit which showed itself in that way seems now to be transferred, under the inspiration of John Knox, to another species, where, if the gain is less to the party carrying it on, the loss is infinitely greater to the party victimised, and where, unless bull-dozers are more valued in Scotland than boys and girls, the disgrace is very much heavier which falls upon the country. For the credit of the gentleman who is at the head of the Scotch Poor Law administration, we would hope he is, as he alleges in excuse, and as his chief the Duke of Argyll repeats in reply to the petition, really not aware of the extent to which Presbyterian bigotry is carrying these "Glasgow bodies," who have our Catholic poor children at their mercy, in fanatical attempts to make converts to their miserable creed. We should not find fault with them feeding the poor children with what they eat themselves, oatmeal porridge, and oatmeal hannocks; but we do object to their stuffing their minds with "Screeds of Scripture," and calling that a good substitute for the Catholic Religion, which they would bring them up in ignorance of, not only contrary (as it now is) to the law of the land, but to the dying request of their parents. The golden rule, "Do as you would be done by," appears to have not yet been admitted into the code of these parochial worthies. What would they say, were their children dealt with in this way? "Oh, but," says their parliamentary apologist, the Duke of Argyll, "there is a necessity for billeting out Catholic orphan children in Scotland among Protestants." The number of Catholics is so insignificant that suitable people cannot be found among that body, with whom children may be boarded out." Though we have often heard it said that lying in Scotland had a certain resemblance to the town of Berwick upon Tweed, which town is neither in England or Scotland, but sometimes and in some things with the one, and sometimes and in some things with the other, that is, that it was sometimes and in some things classed among virtues, and sometimes and in some things among vices, we should be unwilling to believe that the great head of the Campbells and the chief of the Free Kirk Split, would be

guilty of palming a lie upon the House of Lords. While we exonerate it of that despicable act, we cannot however exonerate him of an act of great injustice to the party whose rights he was opposing himself to, for the low and unworthy purpose of advancing himself. What would the House have thought of his statement in defence of the "Glasgow bodies," had Lord Wicklow, or any other lord in the House, risen up and said, that in Glasgow alone there were 103,000 Catholics, and that in Scotland probably not less than 400,000 Catholics. But perhaps it is the fault of the Catholics in Scotland themselves, that they have rather tried to conceal their numbers and importance than to bring them into notice; which is certainly a most impolitic course at the present day when numbers are appealed to in matters of legislation, in preference to everything else. It will be the best preparation that Scotch Catholics can make for gaining the religious freedom they seek for their puppers, young and old, in the prisons as well as under the workhouse, to let their friends as well as their foes see that they are neither an insignificant portion of their country, nor will be any longer contemptibly held as such.—Weekly Register.

We have received the following letter from Mr. Richard Doyle, and we almost rejoice at the mis-statements which have called it forth, for it revives the impressions of 1851, and these are days when Catholics cannot afford to neglect the strength and courage which are derived from familiarity with generous examples. These are days when Catholics have at least as much need as in 1851 to be honorably sensitive as to their attitude between their Church and her assailants. Now, quite as much as in 1851, all who feel for their Church that affectionate loyalty which spurns compromise as no better than treason, will share in Mr. Doyle's feeling, that no position is tolerable which can suggest the possibility of indifference to, or complicity with, the warfare waged against the Church. No one has felt this more strongly than Mr. Doyle, or has acted on the feeling more nobly; and we trust that those who have published any thing to the contrary will reproduce the following contradiction:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TABLET.  
My Dear Sir—Apologising for addressing you on a subject of interest only to myself, I nevertheless venture to ask you kindly to allow me space for a few words.

I am told, but have not myself seen them, that more than one newspaper in this country and in Ireland, have recently informed their readers that I had recommended drawing in Punch. It is not the fact that I have done so; and the statement is probably traceable to the circumstance, that one or two small drawings, which, no doubt, happened to be in the hands of the proprietors of that journal at the time I left off contributing to its pages, many years ago, have been recently inserted without my consent, and very much against my wish.

The reasons which led me to leave Punch remain in full force. The style of writing adopted in '51, and uniformly followed since, whenever the Catholic religion is mentioned, or the conduct of Catholics is under discussion, makes it impossible, in my opinion, for any Catholic to take part in it, in however humble a way. I should be sorry if the readers of the Tablet thought me likely to do so. Very faithfully, &c., RICHARD DOYLE.

GUNS FOR IRON SHIPS.—The repeated inquiries made in Parliament respecting Capitan Ships and Armstrong Guns show how faithfully Parliament reflects the public anxiety on the great question of the day. It is indeed, a subject of immeasurable importance to us, as the comments of foreign journals very plainly demonstrate. No sooner was it concluded from the great experiment in America that iron-plated Ships might, at little cost of pains or money, be made absolutely impregnable to cannon, than it was immediately inferred, as a necessary consequence, that the maritime power of England was gone. We could not, said the Americans, maintain ourselves even in the Gulf of Mexico. We could not say a French frigate, protect our shores from invasion. Nor were these conclusions without warrant from the evidence then before the world. If ships could beat guns, what guns could repel a hostile fleet, and what was the use of our batteries either ashore or afloat? Fortunately, however for the English side of the argument, the whole theory has been upset as soon as it was formed. The experiments at Shoeburyness have restored the ascendancy of the attack over the defence. Ships' guns can be made more powerful than ship-armor. The strongest iron-side afloat may be sent to the bottom by a single shot. To be sure, there is only one gun in the world which can do this, but that gun we possess, and we alone have at present the means of making more. It is to Sir William Armstrong that, for a second time the credit of a model cannon is due. He has applied his original invention to a new purpose, and has availed himself of the immense strength gained by his system of manufacture to employ a heavier charge of powder than any ordinary gun would bear. His process was at first designed to give the strength of material required for four long guns; it now gives the strength required for enormous charges. Fifty pounds of gunpowder seems a charge rather for a nine than a gun; and it appears, indeed, questionable whether it was all burnt in the explosion; but, at any rate the effect was produced on the target, and the gun stood the strain. Had either the Monitor or the Merrimack been before this piece of cannon the destruction of the ship would have been as complete and as instantaneous as that of the Cumberland or Congress. We can sink any iron-sided vessel with what seems a perfect certainty, and the results thus put on record will once more change the complexion of the controversy. It will be convenient at this new point of the question to state the case as it stands at present. Iron-plated Ships are to a great extent invulnerable, and, indeed, to a greater extent than was at first believed. They can resist all guns except of one peculiar kind. The Americans have no gun of any calibre or form which can pierce even imperfect ship-armor. We, till the other day, had no gun of any kind or size, rifled or smooth-bore, which could pierce the armour of a ship like the Warrior. Excepting, therefore, under conditions which must for some time be rare, iron-sided Frigates are still practically invulnerable, and one of them would be just as competent as before to destroy a whole wooden squadron. When the new gun is rifled the range will be greatly increased and the weight of the shot doubled. This would give a wooden ship carrying such a gun more chances in proportion; but the lack of defensive armour would still leave her in a position of almost fatal inferiority as we need use no words to prove. We have returned, therefore, after wonderful discoveries and achievements on both sides, to a conclusion very much resembling the deductions established at the outset of the controversy. Ironsides, compared with wooden ships, are so far invulnerable as to possess an absolute superiority, but there are conditions, not of easy realization, under which the can be successfully assailed.—London Times.

The important experiments at Shoeburyness which we last week recorded, proved that we are already able to pierce, not merely such ex estempore casing as that of the Merrimack and the Monitor, but even the Rhinoceros hide of the Warrior. As yet it has only been done at two hundred yards. Sir W. Armstrong, however, promises to do it at 1,000 yards.—As between ships and forts, this, if it is effected—of which we have little doubt—will put matters much where they were a month ago. Forts will be sufficient to defend our dockyards, and they will be hardly makes any change. These experiments will probably induce Government to persevere as to the Splendid forts. We shall hear what is decided after the Baster holidays.—Weekly Register.

A notice in the Gazette intimates that Her Majesty does not wish any celebration of her birth-day to be held this year.